IN THE SPECIFICATION

Kindly enter amendments to the specification.

Page 1, insert the following heading and paragraph following the title:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This is a U.S. national-stage application of Int'l Appln. No. PCT/GB2004/002994, filed January 11, 2006.

Page 1, insert the following heading at line 4:

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

Page 1, insert the following heading at line 8:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Page 5, insert the following heading at line 30:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Page 6, insert the following headings and paragraph at line 8:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 shows the standard curve obtained for different forms of polymer-conjugated interferon obtained in Example 7.

Figure 2 shows a graph of absorbance vs. IFN [pg/ml] obtained for NIBSC (UK) interferon-α 2b (open symbols) and native interferon-α 2b (closed symbols).

Figure 3 shows a graph of biological activity vs. IFN [pg/ml] obtained for chemically treated native interferon-α 2b that was not pegylated (open symbols) and native interferon-α 2b (closed symbols).

Figure 4 shows a graph of biological activity vs. IFN [pg/ml] obtained for pegylated interferon-α 2b (open symbols) and native interferon-α 2b used for conjugation (closed symbols).

Figure 5A shows real-time quantitative RT-PCR analysis of the interferon-inducible 2'5'-oligoadenylate synthetase (2'5'-OAS) gene.
Figure 5B shows real-time quantitative RT-PCR analysis of the interferon-inducible protein kinase R (PRKR) gene.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF SPECIFIC EMBODIMENTS

Page 42, replace the paragraph starting at line 17 with the following:
Induction of 2'5'-oligoadenylate synthetase ([[2,5']] 2'5'-OAS) and protein kinase R (PRKR) mRNA by interferon-α 2b was determined. The purified poly (ethylene glycol) interferon conjugate and a sample of the native interferon-α 2b were evaluated. Two million MOLT 4 cells/well were incubated in 24 well tissue culture plates with 5000 pg of each interferon sample as measured using an enzyme immunoassay for 24 h at 37°. The total RNA was extracted (RNA II Isolation kit, Macheray-Nagel) and 200 ng subjected to reverse transcription in a final volume of 20 µL (Sigma, AMV reverse transcription kit). Samples were diluted 1 in 4 in water and 2 µL of each sample amplified in a 20 µL real-time PCR quantitation mix (Sigma SybrGreen ReadyMix). The primers used were:-
2'5'-OAS forward (SEQ ID NO: 1) GGC TAT AAA CCT AAC CCC CAA ATC
2'5'-OAS reverse (SEQ ID NO: 2) AGC TTC CCA AGC TTC TTC TTA CAA
PRKR [[PKR]] forward (SEQ ID NO: 3) ACT CTT TAG TGA CCA GCA CAC TCG
PRKR reverse (SEQ ID NO: 4) TTT AAA ATC CAT GCC AAA CCT CTT